Government is aware of the emerging scenario for the SSI Units and has taken several steps to help them become globally competitive. These include special focus on areas such as technology up-gradation, infrastructure assistance through the cluster approach, timely availability of credit, adoption of modern management practices, use of electronic infrastructure, marketing and timely information dissemination, including sensitization of small industries to the emerging challenges of trade liberalisation.

The government also proposes to take following specific steps for helping the SSI units :—

(1) A Sechme of credit guarantee is being launched shortly, for which a provision of Rs. 100 Crores has been made in the Budget for the years 2000-2001.

(2) In the Union Budget 2000-2001 the operation of the special scheme called the Technology Development and Modernisation Fund of the Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI), is proposed to be extended by another three years.

(3) The Ministry of Small scale Industries and Agro and Rural Industries is planning to introduce a scheme of interest support to small scale entrepreneurs going in for technology up-gradation and modernisation.

(4) In the amendments to the Export and Import Policy, announced on 31-3-2000. Export Promotion Capital goods Scheme has been liberalised to include SSI Sector, which now can import capital goods required for export production at the concessional duty rate of 5%.

Anti Dumping Cases Filed with Anti-Dumping Directorate

3103. SHRI JIBON ROY : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) The total number of anti-dumping cases filed with Anti-dumping Directorate during the last three years (year-wise break-up);

(b) The country-wise breakup of the cases;

(c) The total number of cases decided by the Director; and

(d) The details of the decisions taken by the Directorate ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI. MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b) Anti-dumping investigations are carried out in India under Sections 9A, 9B and 9C of the Customs tariff (Identification, Assessment and Collection of Anti-dumping duty on dumped articles for determination of injury) Rules.

The total number of anti-dumping cases filed during the last three years is 77 (1997 to date).

The year-wise and country-wise break-up of the cases filed is given at Annexure-[See Appendix 189, Annexure No. 81]

(c) and (d) The total number of cases upto 18th April'2000 wherein the Designated Authority for Anti-Dumping and Allied Duties has recommended Anti-dumping duties, (definitive or provisional) or where investigations have been initiated are given in the Annexure-[See Appendix 189, Annexure-No. 81]

Export of Gems and Jewelleries

3104. SHRI ANANTA SETHI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) Whether there is a vast scope for exporting gems and jewelleries from the country;

(b) if so, the steps taken in that regard during the last three years; year-wise; and

(c) The steps taken to increase the export of gems and jewelleries ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) yes, sir.

(b) and (c) The year-wise details of important Policy Initiatives taken to increase the export of gems and jewellery are as under:

Policy Initiatives taken during the year 1997-98

(i) With a view to increase the supply of gold to the exporters, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) authorised banks were permitted to import and supply gold/silver to the jewellery exporters on furnishing a bank guarantee towards the Custom duty liability,

(ii) permission for exports through third party in order to encourage the small manufacturers to export,